

Subject: Oppose Lines 124 to 126 in Raised Bill HB 5282

Dear Honorable Members of the Education Committee:

I am writing to oppose the language that appears between lines 124 to 126 (in **bold face** and strikethrough below) in raised bill HB 5282:

123 Such data relating to students shall not be disaggregated by ethnic
124 subgroups ~~unless such disaggregated student data is (i) required under~~
125 ~~federal law, or (ii) collected uniformly for all ethnic subgroups among~~
126 ~~the entire student population in the state;~~

As an Asian American of long-time resident in Connecticut, I strongly oppose the language described in the line 124 to 126, even though I support the first part of the sentence (mainly on line 123), which prohibits data disaggregation by ethnic subgroups. The language of lines 124 to 126 that says “unless such disaggregated student data is required under federal law or collected uniformly for all ethnic subgroups” is very problematic, and should be removed.

Disaggregation by ethnic subgroups involves subdividing the commonly used race groups (e.g., African American, Asian American, European American, Latino, and Native American) into finer subgroups, often based on ancestral countries of origin or some other definitions of ethnicity. However, in most cases, Asian Americans are the only group subjecting to this disaggregation. In similar laws passed in other states, including several of our neighboring states, Asian Americans are further divided into Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Vietnamese, etc. I see no scientific basis in this kind of data disaggregation, nor meaningful purposes except that it might help the effort of some organizations or ideologues to artificially seeking out new “victim” classes among people, for the sake of their political or financial gains. Therefore, I support prohibiting ethnical subgroup data disaggregation.

This issue has not attracted wide-spread attention among the general public, except Asian Americans. This kind of data disaggregation can have disproportional effect on Asian Americans, who are already disadvantaged and discriminated on things such as college admission, exemplified by the well-known Supreme Court Case against Harvard University. However, this is not only an Asian issue; it is in fact an American issue. It begs the fundamental question of how much further we are prepared to go down the slippery slope of identity politics. Shall we judge individuals, judge our children, by their character, their skin color, or their ancestral country of origin? Therefore, I oppose all forms of data disaggregation based on ethnicity subgroups. Even if the disaggregation is applied across the entire student population. It is simply wrong.

Furthermore, the reference to federal law is unnecessary and irrelevant. To my knowledge, not only is there not such a federal law, but States also have their own jurisdiction and discretion on such issues.

For these reasons, I urge the Education Committee to revise the language by removing lines 124 to 126.
The sentence should simply read as follows:

123 Such data relating to students shall not be disaggregated by ethnic subgroups. **(period)**

Thank you.

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